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Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: promoting full employment and decent work for all

Statement submitted by Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

1. The NGO Committee on Social Development conducted a survey of NGOs in 2006-07 to obtain what they consider to be effective practices in "Employment and Decent Work". The Committee received 50 responses to the Survey, representing 37 countries: 22 from Africa; 10 from Asia; 8 from South and Central America; 1 from Australia; and 5 each form Europe and North America.

2. Projects described in the 50 survey responses are illustrative of decent work and employment initiatives which can be deemed successful in empowering local communities and reducing poverty. They involve and are directed towards families, youth, women, the elderly, children, ex-soldiers, and people with disabilities, those who are mentally ill, and former prisoners.

3. The projects are focused on education, formation and training; financial planning and micro-credit; empowerment; advocacy; working conditions. Based on the data from the Survey which documents of what is happening on the ground by soliciting these stakeholders their suggestions they would make for effective policies in the area of Employment and Decent Work, the Committee has developed a summary of recommendations for Governments to assist them in their preparation for the 2008 session of the Commission for Social Development and the elaboration of lines of policy.

4. In support of the Chairman's Summary, and the Millennium Development Goals, while recognizing that economic growth cannot be the organizing principle of public policy, and having done a careful analysis of the projects submitted, and the lessons learned, we make the following recommendations to Governments:

1. **Collaborate with NGOs and participants who sponsor employment opportunities**
2. **Involve participants in initiating, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating all projects**
3. **Ensure gender equality and promote the emerging role of women and the girl child by recognizing their unique contribution of women and children to the overall success of the project**
4. **Ensure education and participation at grass-roots level according to the interests and abilities of the participants**
5. **Supplement funding from NGOs and corporations**
6. **Guarantee funding to support, educate and train participants**
7. **Collaborate with other funding sources from civil society, corporations and foundations**
8. **Provide the necessary infrastructure, roads, water, electricity, health and sanitation services**
9. **Monitor adherence to legal frameworks for workers as articulated by ILO**
10. **Commit to supporting basic human rights as outlined in accepted human rights law**

It is our hope that Governments will transform these recommendations into policy.

Statement endorsed and supported by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Bahá'í International Community, Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants, Company of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, Dominican Leadership Conference, Elizabeth Seton Federation, International Association of Charities, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, Pax Romana, Salesian Missions, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, UNANIMA International and VIVAT International.